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Remarks/Arguments:

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his detailed comments. As Examiner has grouped his actions by sections, Applicant will respond to these
5 sections one by one.

It is noted that on the Office Action Summary, box 9 that "The specification is objected to by the Examiner" has been checked, apparently by hand, but Applicant can find no reference to any objection to the specification in the Office Action, and therefore, no attempt has been made to amend the specification. It is
10 requested that Examiner clarify this point, if there was indeed any objection.

DETAILED ACTION**Claim Objections**

15 1. Examiner has stated:

"Claim 31 is objected to because of the following informalities: the preamble for claim 31 refers to claim 1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the preamble for claim 31 should refer to claim 14 and will be treated as such for the purpose of this office
20 action. Appropriate correction is required."

The current amendment to Claim 31 changes its dependency from Claim 1 to Claim 14, as the examiner has indicated. It is thought that this will correct the problem. Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2-3. Examiner has stated:

"Claims 1-6, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1).

30 "Kennewick discloses a travel assistant device (paragraph 18, line 9) comprising: a hard disk drive (paragraph 111, lines 4-5) including at least one database (paragraph 120, line 2); a digital camera (paragraph 97, line 2); a microphone (paragraph 121, line

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2); a display screen (paragraph 97, line 2); at least one speaker (paragraph 121, line 6); database software by which images and sound input from said digital camera and said microphone are stored in said hard disk drive as a personal log database (110), which log database may be updated by the additional commentary and images as desired, and where said database software retrieves downloaded database information which includes images, sound files and text (paragraph 120) which act as a travel instructor (paragraph 85); and a portable (paragraph 96, line 1) translator device (paragraph 85). Kennewick further discloses a touch-screen display (paragraph 97, line 2). Kennewick further discloses a display screen that displays graphics and video, which can include slides and Moving Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) movies, a file format for compression of digital video and audio data (paragraph 97, line 2). Kennewick further discloses at least one speaker plays sound files (paragraph 18, lines 15-17). Kennewick further discloses a Global Positioning System (GPS) module (paragraph 97, line 4). As per claims 13 and 31, Kennewick discloses a device that can locate a music file and play it, the files could include MP3 files, the file extension for MPEG Audio Layer-3, a set of standards for compressing and downloading audio files from the Internet (paragraph 18, lines 15-17)."

Applicant respectfully asserts that there are a number of errors and misconceptions in the Examiner's statements. Applicant finds it difficult to find several of the elements in the paragraph Examiner has cited. In particular, examiner has stated:

"Kennewick discloses ...database software by which images and sound input from said digital camera and said microphone are stored in said hard disk drive as a personal log database (110),"

whereas paragraph 110 actually states:

"[0110] As has already been mentioned, a handheld computer 36 can be used as a component of the invention. A block diagram of one possible embodiment of the handheld computer is shown in FIG. 3."

Examiner goes on to further state:

"...which log database may be updated by the additional commentary and images as desired, ...which act as a travel instructor (paragraph 85); and a portable (paragraph 96, line 1) translator device (paragraph 85)."

Paragraph 85 actually refers to interactive educational programs which can include foreign language translation, but Applicant can find no mention of a log database which can be updated by additional commentary and images by the user.

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These aspects of the present invention are discussed in the specification and illustrated in Figures 5-8 of the present application. Applicant can find no corresponding element in the cited reference.

The cited Kennewick reference states in its abstract that it teaches “a
5 complete speech-based information query” and is in fact titled “Mobile Systems and Methods for Responding to Natural Language Speech Utterance”. Thus it teaches the use of a mobile system which is designed to respond to speech input.

In contrast, Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, reads

10 “1. A travel assistant device comprising:

...

15 database software by which images and sound input from said digital camera and said microphone are stored in said hard disk drive as a personal log database, which can be displayed on said display screen and through said speaker, where said personal log database may be updated by the additional commentary and images as desired, and where said database software retrieves downloaded database information which includes images, sound files and text which act as a travel instructor; and

20 a portable translator device which includes an Optical Character Recognition engine, which takes input of graphic images of words from said digital camera in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language, and a dictionary module which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine and produces translated files in a language familiar to the user, and outputs said translated files to said view screen and said at least one speaker.

25 Thus, the present invention utilizes graphic images as well as sound input to produce guidance for the user and acts as a travel instructor in ways much more flexible than that of the cited prior art. An example is given in the specification of the present invention, where input from a digital camera is taken, processed by an Optical Character Recognition engine and then used to reference a Japanese-to-
30 English dictionary. The output is then available to the user in the form of text information on a screen or as a sound file. Applicant can find no such corresponding element in the cited reference.

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This is significantly different than is taught by the cited reference, where an interactive educational program is provided to give foreign language translation to speech utterances. Many situations can be imagined in which signs in foreign languages are encountered, and a translation is required, perhaps urgently. In such a situation, the device of Kennewick would not be useful.

Thus it is respectfully asserted that Claim 1, as currently amended, cannot be fairly said to be anticipated by the cited reference.

Claims 2-10 and 12-13 depend upon Claim 1 and thus include the novel aspects of Claim 1 by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-6 and 13 be withdrawn and Claims 1-6 and 13 should be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4-5. Examiner has stated:

15 "Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1) in view of Lee (US 2002/0165557 A1).

"Although Kennewick discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 6, Kennewick fails to disclose a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information and allows tracking of the user.

20 "Lee in the same field of invention discloses a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information (paragraph 31, line 4) and allows tracking of the user (paragraph 31, line 1).

25 "From this teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the travel assistant of Kennewick to include a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information and allows tracking of the user of Lee, in order to allow a user to navigate using up to date maps in a given area."

Claims 7 and 8 depend upon Claim 1, and thus include the assertedly novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 1, as discussed above, by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn and Claims 7 and 8 be allowed.

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6. Examiner has stated:

“Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1) in view of Harrington (US 2003/0145338 A1).

“Although Kennewick discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 1, Kennewick fails to disclose a producing HTML files and MPEG movies.

“Harrington in the same field of invention discloses producing HTML files and MPEG movies, a file format for compression of digital video and audio data (paragraph 12, line 1).

“From this teaching of Harrington, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the travel assistant of Kennewick to include producing HTML files and MPEG movies of Harrington, in order to update a personal website designed to share experiences”.

Claims 9 and 10 depend upon Claim 1, and thus include the assertedly novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 1, as discussed above, by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 9 and 10 be withdrawn and Claims 9 and 10 should be allowed.

7. Examiner has stated:

“Claims 11-12, 14-23, 26-28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1) in view of Dymetman et al. (US 2002/0020750 A1).

“Although Kennewick discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 1, Kennewick fails to disclose an Optical Character Recognition engine, which takes input of graphic images of words from said digital camera in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language; and a dictionary module which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine and produces translated files in a language familiar to the user, and outputs said translated files to said view screen and said at least one speaker.

“Dymetman in the same field of invention discloses an Optical Character Recognition engine (paragraph 4, line 2), which takes input of graphic images of words from said digital camera (paragraph 5, line 2) in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language (paragraph 288); and a dictionary module (paragraph 245) which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine and produces translated files (paragraph 288) in a language familiar to the user, and outputs said translated files to said view screen (paragraph 288, line 6) and said at least one speaker (paragraph 247, line 1).

“From this teaching of Dymetman, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the travel assistant

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of Kennewick to including an Optical Character Recognition engine, which takes input of graphic images of words from said digital camera in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language; and a dictionary module which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine
5 and produces translated files in a language familiar to the user, and outputs said translated files to said view screen and said at least one speaker of Dymetman, in order to provide a translation tool to a user”.

10 Claim 11 has currently been cancelled after its limitations have been included into the currently amended Claim 1, and thus its rejection as obvious shall be addressed here.

Again, Applicant finds it difficult to find some of the cited elements in the locations referred to by the Examiner. Examiner has stated:

15 “Dymetman in the same field of invention discloses an Optical Character Recognition engine (paragraph 4, line 2),”

There is a reference to OCR in line 8 of paragraph 004,

20 “which takes input of graphic images of words from said digital camera (paragraph 5, line 2)”

a digital camera is discussed which takes pictures of a physical desk and marks digitized documents with OCR font identifiers that encodes the location of a
25 directory as a network IP address,

“in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language (paragraph 288);”

30 the discussion in paragraph 288 is of a user who wants to translate an English word into French,

“and a dictionary module (paragraph 245)”

35 actually an on-line dictionary,

“which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine and produces translated files (paragraph 288)”

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again, a manually selected translation of an English word,

5 "in a language familiar to the user, and outputs said translated files to said view screen (paragraph 288, line 6) and said at least one speaker (paragraph 247, line 1)."

This disclosure in the cited reference bears little resemblance to the translator device of the present invention. As discussed above, the present invention utilizes graphic images as well as sound input to produce guidance for the user. Examiner is again referred to the example given in the specification of the present invention, where input from a digital camera is taken, processed by an Optical Character Recognition engine and then used to reference a Japanese-to-English dictionary. The output is then available to the user in the form of text information on a screen or as a sound file. Applicant can find no such
15 corresponding element in the cited references.

It is apparently Examiner's contention that various elements from the cited prior art references could be combined in a way that would be obvious to one skilled in the art to produce the present invention. It has often been said that nearly all new inventions are combinations of existing elements. If every invention that used combinations of previously known elements was considered to be obvious,
20 then nearly every invention produced in the last century would be considered unpatentable. The mere fact that previous elements are known cannot be fairly said to make an invention obvious to one skilled in the art. It is true that digital cameras, and dictionaries, as well as Optical Character Recognition engines, have
25 previously existed. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references that a travel assistant device could be devised that would include a digital camera that would input images, convert them to optical characters, reference their meaning in a software database and provide a translation to the user

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in a portable device suitable for travelers. The present invention provides a means of translating foreign languages which is much more flexible and useful to the user than anything taught by the prior art.

Thus it cannot be fairly said that Claim 1, which includes the limitations of Claim 11 is obvious in view of the cited prior art. It is respectfully asserted that Claim 1 is non-obvious, and respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 1, which as amended includes the limitations of Claim 11, be allowed.

Claims 12, depends upon Claim 1, and thus include the assertedly novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 1 by its dependence. Thus it is respectfully asserted that Claim 12 is non-obvious, and respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 12 be allowed.

As to independent Claim 14, it also includes the features of

15

"14 A portable translator device comprising:...

a digital camera which inputs graphic images of words in a language unfamiliar to the user;

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an Optical Character Recognition engine which resides on said hard disk drive, which takes said input graphic images of words in a language unfamiliar to the user and converts them to characters in said unfamiliar language;

a dictionary module which is downloadable to said at least one database on said hard disk drive, and which takes said characters generated by said Optical Character Recognition engine and produces translated files in a language familiar to the user; and

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at least one output device which takes said translated files and outputs them to the user."

In a similar manner to that described above, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references that a travel assistant device would include a digital camera that would input images, convert them to optical characters, reference their meaning in a software database and provide a translation to the user in a portable device suitable for travelers. The present invention provides a means of translating foreign languages which is much more flexible and useful to the user

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than anything taught by the prior art.

Thus it cannot be fairly said that Claim 14 is obvious in view of the cited prior art. Thus it is respectfully asserted that Claim 14 is non-obvious, and
5 respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and Claim 14 be allowed.

Claims 15-23, 26-28 and 31 depend upon Claim 14, and thus include the assertedly novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 14 by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 12, 15-23, 26-28 and 31 be
10 withdrawn and Claims 12, 15-23, 26-28 and 31 should be allowed.

8. Examiner has stated:

15 "Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1) in view of Dymetman et al. (US 2002/0020750 A1) as applied to claim 23, and further in view of Harrington (US 2003/0145338 A1).

20 "Although the Kennewick and Dymetman combination discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 23, the combination fails to disclose a producing HTML files and MPEG movies. Harrington in the same field of invention discloses producing HTML files and MPEG movies, a file format for compression of digital video and audio data (paragraph 12, line 1).

25 "From this teaching of Harrington, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the travel assistant of Kennewick in view of Dymetman to include producing HTML files and MPEG movies of Harrington, in order to update a personal website designed to share experiences.

Claims 24 and 25 depend upon Claim 14, and thus include the assertedly
30 novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 14 by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 24 and 25 be withdrawn and Claims 24 and 25 should be allowed.

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9. Examiner has stated:

“Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennewick et al. (US 2004/0193420 A1) in view of Dymetman et al. (US 2002/0020750 A1) as applied to claim 28, and further in view of Lee (US 2002/0165667 A1).

“Although the Kennewick and Dymetman combination discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 28, the combination fails to disclose a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information and allows tracking of the user.

Lee in the same field of invention discloses a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information (paragraph 31, line 4) and allows tracking of the user (paragraph 31, line 1).

“From this teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the travel assistant of Kennewick in view of Dymetman to include a GPS that allows downloads of interactive digital guide information and allows tracking of the user of Lee, in order to allow a user to navigate using up to date maps in a given area”.

Claims 29 and 30 depend upon Claim 14, and thus include the assertedly novel and non-obvious aspects of Claim 14 by their dependence. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 29 and 30 be withdrawn and Claims 29 and 30 should be allowed.

Applicant thus respectfully requests that all Claims 1-10, and 12-31 pending in the present application be allowed.

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Conclusion:

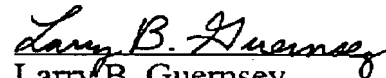
Applicant has endeavored to put this case into complete condition for allowance. It is thought that the objection to Claim 31 has been overcome by the present amendments, and that §102 and §103 rejections were overcome by the present amendments or were unfounded on the cited references. Applicant therefore respectfully asks that the rejections be withdrawn and that allowance of all claims presently in the case now be granted.

If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the points involved in the Response, he is urged to contact Applicant's Attorney at the numbers included below.

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